



IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 8
JUNE 22, 2023

Army Unveils M10 Booker Combat Vehicle

3

New Tape Test Helps Measure Soldier Fitness

4

Family Readiness

Partnering in Support

6

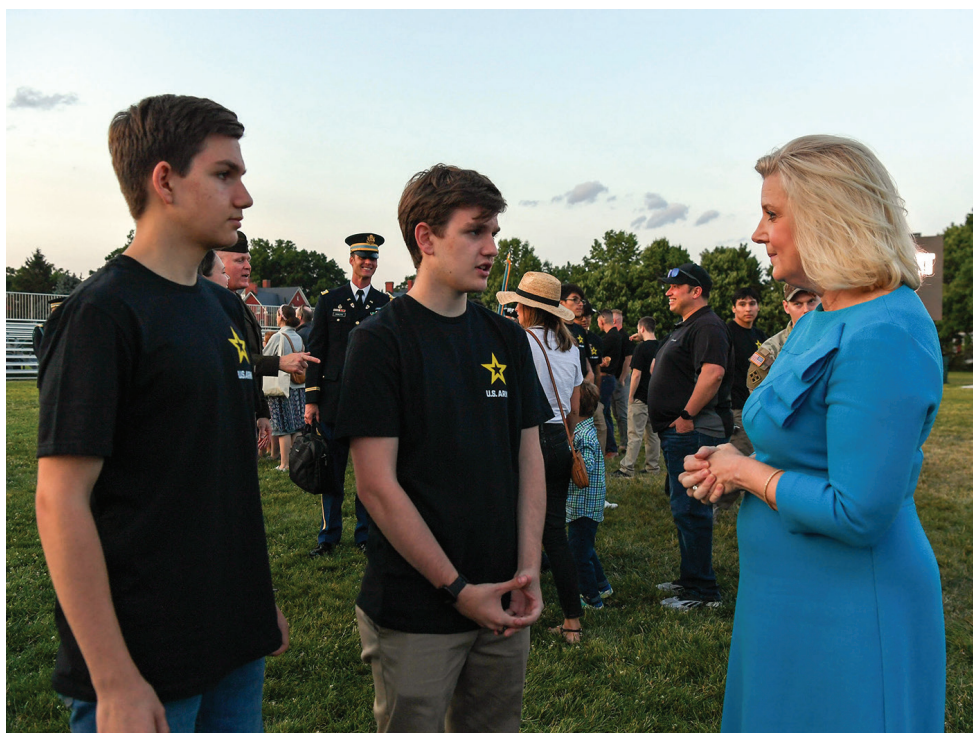


Chapter Highlights

Allegheny-Blue Ridge

Central Texas

7



Army Secretary Christine Wormuth, right, greets new Army recruits during a Twilight Tattoo event June 14 at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Virginia. (U.S. ARMY/SGT. DAVID RESNICK)

Army rebuilds recruiting momentum

While the Army will fall short of its recruiting goal again this year, leaders are encouraged by the success of several new recruiting initiatives and improvements made within the recruiting force.

Several programs and incentives have built some positive momentum in the service's all-out effort to boost recruiting, Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said, but the recruiting challenge continues to be "the only real significant dark cloud on the Army's horizon."

The Army missed its goal of recruiting 60,000 new soldiers last year by about 15,000, citing a tough recruiting environment brought on by, among other things, the COVID-19 pandemic, which kept recruiters from vital in-person meetings

with high schoolers and their influencers for almost two years.

Education came to a standstill, too, and the obesity, substance abuse and behavioral issues that had disqualified many young people from service before the pandemic only intensified. The number of young people willing to serve also dropped to record low levels, leaders said.

Despite the challenge, the recruiting goal for the current fiscal year was raised to 65,000, an ambitious mark that "I don't think we're going to meet," Wormuth said June 13 during a discussion with reporters.

She declined to predict what this year's shortfall will be, but said things look brighter now than they did at the same time last year and may improve even more over the summer when recruiting tends to surge.

"On the positive side, we are doing better now in June of 2023 than we did in June of 2022," she said, placing much of the credit for the improved outlook on the success of the Future Soldier Preparatory Course, a program that gives low-scoring enlistees a chance to improve their eligibility to attend basic training with academic and fitness courses.

In addition to other recruiting initiatives such as bonuses and incentives, the Army also overhauled its branding and marketing strategy, bringing back the popular "Be All You Can Be" slogan used by the service for two decades.

Wormuth also touted the work of Army Recruiting Command and its top officer, Maj. Gen. Johnny Davis, who has overseen a reworking of how

See **Recruiting**, Page 3



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New Army combat vehicle named for WWII, Iraq heroes

The Army has named its new Mobile Protected Firepower vehicle the M10 Booker Combat Vehicle in honor of two soldiers who died in combat decades apart.

Announced June 10 at the National Museum of the United States Army during a celebration of the Army's 248th birthday, the M10 Booker is named for Pvt. Robert Booker, an infantryman who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for actions during World War II, and Staff Sgt. Stevon Booker, an armor soldier who was killed in Iraq in 2003 and posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Pvt. Robert Booker, of Callaway, Nebraska, was assigned to the 133rd Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division. On April 9, 1943, the 22-year-old Pvt. Booker braved enemy fire to cross an open field near Fondouk, Tunisia, carrying a machine gun and a box of ammunition, according to his Medal of Honor citation.

Though he was wounded by gunfire, he continued firing his weapon and destroyed an enemy machine gun. Turning to a second enemy machine gun, Pvt. Booker was shot again, this time fatally. Before he died, he continued to encourage his squad and help direct their fire, his citation reads.

Staff Sgt. Stevon Booker, a native



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston, left, unveils the M10 Booker Combat Vehicle June 10 during an Army birthday festival at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. (AUSA PHOTO)

of Apollo, Pennsylvania, was a tank commander with Company A, 1st Battalion, 64th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, on April 5, 2003, when his platoon came under heavy small-arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire on a highway toward Baghdad International Airport in Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Booker, 34, alerted his command and encouraged his crew, returning fire with his tank-mounted machine gun. When both his and his crew's machine guns malfunctioned, Staff Sgt. Booker got into a prone position on top of the tank's turret and began firing on the enemy using his personal weapon, according to his

award citation.

Still exposed to enemy fire, Staff Sgt. Booker saw an enemy troop carrier trying to bypass his tank and destroyed it before enemy troops could dismount. He continued to engage the enemy until he was mortally wounded, the citation says.

The M10 Booker is one of the Army's first major combat vehicles produced since the 1980s. The design includes a 105 mm main gun, armor, smoke grenade launchers, blowoff panels and automatic fire suppression, intended to enhance survivability against direct and indirect fire, rocket-propelled grenades and underbody threats.

Meet the AUSA headquarters staff

LaSherryn Duncan

Senior Program Specialist and Senior Producer, Army Matters

LaSherryn Duncan has been with AUSA for four years. She is pursuing a master's degree as a clinical therapist and school counselor at George Mason University in Virginia. In her spare time, LaSherryn enjoys traveling abroad and running, and she is currently training to run a marathon in Hawaii.



Recruiting

From Page 1

recruiters are trained.

She explained that some recruiters who were "not producing the way that we'd like them to," are receiving extra training and being held accountable, which she thinks is "starting to pay off" with increased productivity.

"The increase in recruiter productivity ... is a very good sign, so I think we will enter [the] year in a statistically significantly better way than we did last year, even if we don't make 65,000," Wormuth said.

Revamped tape test aims to better measure soldier health and fitness



A soldier receives a standard tape test at Fort Bragg, now Fort Liberty, North Carolina, as part of the Army's comprehensive body composition study. (U.S. ARMY/PFC. LILLIANA FRASER)

The Army is changing its tape test as the service refines how it measures soldiers' body fat and fitness, the service announced June 12.

"For years, we have been committed to reducing body fat across the force," Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston said in an Army news release. "It's one of the driving factors in supporting the Holistic Health and Fitness program, as well as one of the reasons to request a study on the Army Body Composition Program."

The new tape test will require tape testing for all soldiers, who will be measured around the waist, according to the Army directive. Previously, the Army for decades has determined soldiers' body fat by measuring a man's neck and abdomen or a woman's neck, waist and hips.

Active-duty soldiers will be taped twice a year, and reservists will be taped once a year. The changes "will yield more consistent and accurate estimates of soldiers' body fat and fitness," according to the news release.

These revisions come after a body composition study from the Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine and the Army's Center for Initial Military Training. Data col-

lected during 2021 and 2022 revealed that soldiers with lower body fat and better overall health fare better on the Army Combat Fitness Test than soldiers with a higher body fat percentage, who are more prone to musculoskeletal injuries.

Though the revamped tape test will begin immediately, soldiers can use the previous tape test method for the next year, according to the directive. The directive also offers soldiers the opportunity to use another body fat assessment if they fail the tape test.

"Soldiers who fail the circumference-based tape methods will be flagged, but they may request a supplemental body fat assessment if the means for such testing is reasonably available," according to the release.

The new policy ensures that soldiers' fitness is evaluated more holistically. "The Army wants to ensure it accounts for the whole soldier concept," said Maj. Serena Staples, health promotion policy officer for the Army Resilience Directorate. "The new policy is intended to give soldiers a more accurate assessment of their health and fitness and to increase their knowledge of available health resources."

Read the directive here.

AUSAExtra

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Support For the Soldier*

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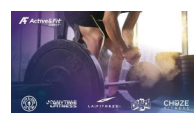
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AUSA supports programs that assist military families

In May, the Association of the U.S. Army's Family Readiness directorate continued its efforts on behalf of military families through partnerships with United Through Reading and Hiring Our Heroes.

When I was a young Army spouse, my family received the positive effects of reading, learning and bonding when my husband recorded books for our son through United Through Reading, a nonprofit organization that has connected 3 million military family members through reading since 1989.

This made reintegration much smoother when my soldier returned home and our son recognized his voice. Over the years and during several more deployments, this became a tradition in the Dailey household, and our son developed a passion for reading.

Family Readiness

During my time with AUSA, I have continued to see the impact United Through Reading makes by connecting military families when they are physically separated. AUSA's Family Readiness team hosted United Through Reading representatives on podcasts in 2021 and 2022 as part of



From left to right, Karen Raines, spouse of Army National Guard Command Sgt. Maj. John Raines; Hollyanne Milley, spouse of Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley; Holly Dailey, AUSA's Family Readiness director; and Maria McConville, spouse of Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville, attend the annual Tribute to Military Families event hosted by United Through Reading. (UNITED THROUGH READING PHOTO)

AUSA's "Army Matters" series.

One of our goals is to educate, inform and connect our military families to programs and resources such as United Through Reading. So, I was very happy to attend United Through Reading's annual Tribute to Military Families on May 10 to

celebrate our service members and their families.

At the event, United Through Reading launched its latest initiative, Operation Storytime, with the goal of reaching "the next million military family members" through shared story time.

The following day, the Family Readiness team represented AUSA at the seventh annual Military Spouse Employment Summit hosted by Hiring Our Heroes, where community support and opportunities for military spouses were recognized and highlighted.

Hiring Our Heroes was launched in March 2011 by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and continues to connect the military community with meaningful employment opportunities. Since spouse employment is one of our priorities at AUSA, we are thrilled to have partners like Hiring Our Heroes.

Holly Dailey is AUSA's Family Readiness director.



Chief Warrant Officer 3 William Norton of the Army National Guard and his wife, Alicia, use the United Through Reading app to stay connected with their children when military service requires time apart. (UNITED THROUGH READING PHOTO)

Local celebration honors service of soldiers, veterans

Soldiers from the past, present and future were honored June 11 during a celebration of the Army birthday hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army's Allegheny-Blue Ridge chapter at the Vinton War Memorial in Virginia.

"Currently, less than 1% of the adults in the United States serve in the military, and only about 6% in the United States have ever served. We owe so much to [them]," said retired Maj. Gen. Cedric Wins, the event's keynote speaker.

Wins, who serves as superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute, said the state has played a large role in Army history. "Virginia provided two of the first six companies of soldiers on June 14, 1775, the volunteers swore their oath of enlistment, very similar to what some of you will do here today," he said, as reported by the *Roanoke Times*.

Institutions such as VMI and



Cooper Purl, left, is sworn into the Army by retired Maj. Gen. Cedric Wins during an event hosted by AUSA's Allegheny-Blue Ridge chapter. (THE ROANOKE TIMES/SAM WALL)

ROTC programs at Virginia Tech and other universities continue to provide support for the Army 248 years later, Wins said. "Because of the selfless service of those in our military, we have the opportunity to take full advantage of the rights and privileges of

being Americans," he said, according to the *Roanoke Times*.

Cooper Purl, a recent graduate of Salem High School, was sworn in at the event by Wins. Purl will serve as a combat medic after undergoing initial military training.

AUSA chapter awards more than \$42K in scholarships

The Association of the U.S. Army's Central Texas chapter awarded \$42,500 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors, adult college students and soldiers furthering their education during a June event at Central Texas College in Killeen.

Volunteers from the chapter hosted two major fundraisers for the scholarship program, including a car show in September and a barbecue cook-off in November. Individuals and local businesses also donated to the program, which awards scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 in value.

"Thank you to all of our donors, supporters, and volunteers for making this event a huge success," the chapter said in a Facebook post.



Graduating high school seniors, adult college students and soldiers furthering their education receive \$42,500 in scholarships from AUSA's Central Texas chapter during a June event at Central Texas College in Killeen. (AUSA PHOTO)



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